



Start with What You Know, Analyze What You Know

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Introduction

Key to success in family history research is building on a solid foundation of research. Too often we look for an end of line and start there without making sure what was done before is sound. It doesn't have to take a lot of time, but it may prevent you from researching the wrong line or searching in the wrong places just to find nothing. The dates and places in the family can also help you decide what to research next. These strategies can be used with any family tree site or program and in any country.

Start with What You Know

When deciding what to research, don't just go to the end of the line and start there. Look at what's already been done, including the sources, and choose a line that at least looks like it has been well-sourced.

Analyze What You Know

The following are some things to look for:

- Consistent places and times.
 - Do they make sense?
 - Use a map.
 - If you come across multiple places, is there evidence that they moved, for example?
- Gaps between children.
 - First child should be anytime within a year after the marriage.
 - Following children every 2-3 years
- Age of the parents, particularly the mother.